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Gay Community News

VOL. 1, NO. 4

JULY 12, 1973

A WEEKLY FORUM FOR THE BOSTON AREA

CSMH IN DANGER

The Charles Street Universalist Meetinghouse has been in financial difficulties for several years. Historically, it has seen its role as a church in support of humanistic causes. It is best known to the gay community as the closest thing we have to a Gay Community Center, with a wide variety of gay events taking place daily. The Meetinghouse is also involved in such areas as support for the arts, peace groups, free school, women's movement, black history, and many others.

Many of these causes have not been popular, especially the gay activism. Because of the receptive role of the church and the strong direction of its minister, Randy Gibson, this has not daunted the programs. These programs, however, have not produced the necessary revenues to keep the Meetinghouse open. In fact, the very survival of the Meetinghouse is in question. While those who disapprove of these programs have failed for years to prevent this humanistic role, lack of finances may prove fatal to the church.

Presently, the Meetinghouse is \$13,000 in debt, which can no longer be put off. An additional \$12,000 is directly needed to continue and develop programs for the church.

The Meetinghouse Coffeehouse was started to provide a congenial social outlet for gay and straight communication, as well as, financial support for the church. As can be seen in last week's financial statement in GCN, the Coffeehouse has not yet become profitable.

In an attempt to raise the \$25,000, a mammoth

auction festival has been planned for Saturday July 14th, 10AM to midnight. (More info. under "Doings").

In an urgent plea for help, Randy Gibson has listed the following as ways to save the Meetinghouse:

(1) Support the auction. Auctionable items are desperately needed. If you don't have anything yourself, solicit from others and bring it to Randy at the Meetinghouse. Tell others about the auction.

(2) Support the Coffeehouse. Patronize it! Volunteer waiters and waitresses are needed. It is only being staffed, presently, by the dedication of a few over-worked people. One day or night a week is all that is needed.

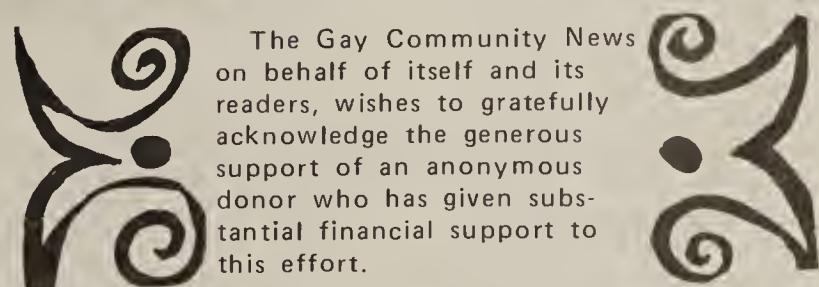
(3) Financial donations are, of course, more than welcome.

(4) Explore joining the church.

(5) People who can do plumbing, plastering, and bricklaying are needed to repair the building. No funds are available to hire professionals. (A local painter has volunteered to do some exterior painting - more help is needed.)

(See our "React" column)

The Gay Community News on behalf of itself and its readers, wishes to gratefully acknowledge the generous support of an anonymous donor who has given substantial financial support to this effort.



NEW ORLEANS: TRAGEDY CONT'D.

Of the fifteen people admitted to the hospital in New Orleans, five have been released. The person who is in the best condition will have to remain in the hospital at least another month and a half. The other nine people can expect stays of two or more months. Most of these will be in outpatient care for therapy and plastic surgery for at least the next year.

July 28th is the target deadline for those able to donate blood. If you are interested in helping the sisters and brothers by a blood donation, please contact Penny Perrault at the Metropolitan Community Church at 266-7491.



FENWAY MUGGINGS

Sunday July 8th, several folks were met by the all too common Fenway unpleasantness of a mugging. The scene was permeated with chaos as the five or six muggers beat up a small group and sent many others running off panic stricken into the night.

An individual who successfully fled the tumult tried to enlist the aid of a passing taxi driver who responded

with "If I call in, the dispatcher will laugh" and apathetically drove away.

The Boston police (District 4) answered the call, although it was out of their jurisdiction. It was reported that the police handled the incident with courtesy, but were unable to locate any victims, witnesses, or suspects, as is very often the case with assaults on homosexuals.

DOUBLE F?

Approximately fifty people were in attendance at last Thursday (July 5) night's effeminate discussion. The title proved to be a little confusing to some people since the unstructured raps were not intended to be affiliated with the Effeminate movement (Double FF). The male participants dealt mainly with their inability to relate to other males on anything but a superficial level. The makeup of the groups was mixed straight and gay. A very encouraging sign for the straight male consciousness in the Boston area.

The next five meetings in the series are listed below:

July 12: Our relationship with women.

July 19: Finding ourselves, therapy vs. consciousness raising groups.

July 26: Dealing with Sexism.

August 2: Men and our bodies.

August 9: Living without couple relationships and without loneliness.

All meetings are held on Thursday evenings at 7:30 PM. All males are encouraged to attend!



Gay Community News is published weekly through the sponsorship of the Charles Street Meetinghouse. GCN is dedicated to providing coverage of events and news of interest to the greater Boston gay community, as well as stimulation of event oriented opinion within the community.

News and opinions reflected in "REACT!," the editorial column, represent the collective view of the editorial board. Signed letters and columns reflect the view of the author only. The material in this paper does not represent the views of the Charles Street Meetinghouse. Comments, criticisms and information are always welcome from our readers.

First class non-profit organization postage paid at Boston, Mass. Subscriptions are \$1.50 for 10 issues (note: see form).

Address for subscriptions, address changes, letters to editor, contributions, comments, etc., send to GCN, c/o Charles Street Meetinghouse, 70 Charles Street, Boston, Ma. 02114. Phone 742-0450.

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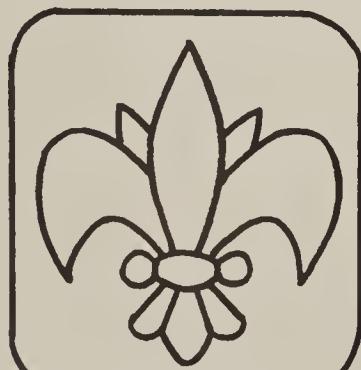
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"RAP SESSION FOR BISEXUALS AND GAYS"

Homophile Union of Boston now has the space available, and many people have shown an interest in rapping on their bisexuality or homosexuality. Raps will be every Tuesday night at 7:30 PM in the new "rap lounge," room 509 at 419 Boylston St., Boston, Ma.. All are welcome!

FENWAY FASCISM

A large round of applause was the response to an announcement concerning "improvements" that will be made on the victory garden area of the Back Bay Fens. The announcement was made at the annual gardener's picnic. "Improvements" include paved roadways, lamp post lighting, the possibility of iron fences being installed, and better cooperation with the Boston Police Department ("in order to curtail nighttime traffic.") No doubt this will be passed off as another episode in the "For the protection of Homosexuals" saga.

DOINGS

BIG DOING ON BASTILLE DAY!!!

Saturday July 14th offers many options for the gregarious gay!

An all day auction, 10AM to 12 midnight, will be happening at the Charles Street Meetinghouse, 70 Charles St., to raise \$25,000 for the survival of the Meetinghouse. Noted personalities will be performing and other events are planned for the non-stop show.

DOB is having Picnic No. 2, at Cochituate State Park, Natick. Bring food, bathing suit and toys. Take turnpike west to exit 13, Route 30 east 1½ miles, park is on the right. If you can give or need a ride call the office weeday evenings or Wednesdays, 262-1592. Rides will be leaving the DOB office 419 Boylston St. promptly Saturday morning at 9:30AM.

The Metropolitan Community Church will sponsor a picnic at Crane Beach. Everyone is welcome, bring your own food. If you are able to provide transportation, please call 266-7491.

FREE Astrology classes will be offered for gay men. Call Harry Phillips at 661-9362.

REACT !

FOR A COMPLETELY UNIQUE EXPERIENCE...

Make the world a better place to live. Experience the satisfaction of working and sharing with other gay people in making our community a free place to live and love.

Older gays, as well as young, women and men, black and white, conservative and radical, skilled professionals and unskilled people; we need and welcome you regardless of your political ideologies or sexual identities. We are all part of a sexual minority.

We desperately need new people with new energies, ideas, and perspectives. We urge and welcome you to become actively involved in developing a cohesive alternative to the oppressive straight environment in which we live. We can no longer afford to submit to a straight society that constantly monitors and invalidates our behavior, thus preventing us from reaching our full human potential.

If you have never been able to decide how and where to get involved perhaps this will be enough of a guide to get you started in a meaningful direction.

RADIO, TV & OTHER MEDIA (All aspects)

Lavender Hour, Gay Way Radio, Gay Media Watch, Gay Speakers Bureau.

JOURNALISTIC, LITERARY & POETIC AREAS

Boston Gay Line, Fag Rag, Focus, Gay Community News, Good Gay Poets.

RELIGIOUS

Dignity/Boston, Metropolitan Community Church, Fr. Paul Shanley.

WOMEN'S GROUPS

Daughters of Bilitis, Lesbian Liberation, Red River Dyke Collective.

COUNSELING

Homophile Community Health Service, Project Place GENERAL (Volunteers needed for all kinds of work)

Gay Community Center

Gay Community News

Meetinghouse Coffee House

Further information on how to get in touch with the various organizations can be found in the Quick Gay Guide, or call 742-0450. All groups welcome any financial support you may be able to contribute.

Won't you finally succumb to that nagging feeling that you could be doing more for yourself and your gay brothers and sisters? Remember...

IF UNIQUE IS WHAT YOU SEEK

PUT AN END TO VIOLENCE

When will incidents such as the recent mugging in the Fenway stop? We must do something other than run; we can organize and let the muggers know that we will not tolerate their harassment.

SAVE THE MEETINGHOUSE

The Charles Street Meetinghouse has been, and is, there when needed by the gay community. It now urgently needs our help. We cannot let this vital institution close. We urge the entire community to join in this effort. If we lose the Meetinghouse, it will be a tremendous setback for the gay movement in Boston.



GAY CRASH SERVICE FORMING

People interested in assisting in the formation of a crash service for gay people who need to stay for a few days, please write to: Crash Service, c/o the Charles Street Meetinghouse, 70 Charles Street, Boston, Ma. 02114 or

call 742-0450 and leave a message for John Williams. If you can crash people, give us the details of the space you have and for what days and what period of time you could have people stay.

REACTIONS :

TO: Gay Community News

July 9, 1973

FROM: Nicholas Deutsch

I was puzzled to see listed on Skip Rosenthal's list of Gay Pride Week expenses something described as "loan from Coming Out." As I explained to Skip, as well as to other members of the Gay Pride Week Committee, I had originally committed this money on the part of the show without consulting the full cast and staff -- something which I had no right to do. When several cast members (properly) raised objections, I told Skip that the \$200.00 was henceforth to be considered a personal donation on my part, and was no longer connected with the production in any way.

I am bothered that this information was ignored, and that members of the company -- who are not to blame for the mix-up -- have been hassled by questions about the "loan." I hope more care can be taken in the future by everyone in regard to communications and checking with all people involved in an organization... we have better things to spend our time on than financial matters; but unless we're more open with each other, we'll always end up with confusion and bitterness over matters of this sort.

Peace,

Nick Deutsch
To The Editor,

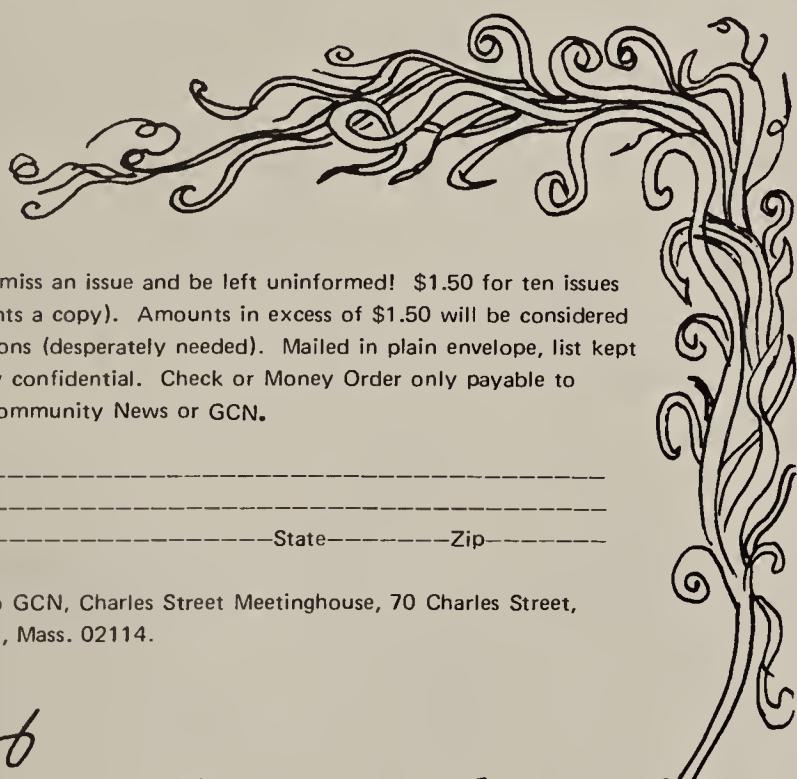
It was brought to my attention that there is a large segment of gay people that no one in Boston involved in the gay liberation struggle is aware of. These people are the gay blacks.

Why haven't these people been stimulated or motivated into our community? Fact: There are as many gay blacks proportionally as whites. It is apparent there is more of a problem on their behalf as there is a strong heterosexual element in their society.

Why have these people chosen to be apart from our society?

Sincerely,

Philip W. Hemmings



Don't miss an issue and be left uninformed! \$1.50 for ten issues (15Cents a copy). Amounts in excess of \$1.50 will be considered donations (desperately needed). Mailed in plain envelope, list kept strictly confidential. Check or Money Order only payable to Gay Community News or GCN.

Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail to GCN, Charles Street Meetinghouse, 70 Charles Street, Boston, Mass. 02114.

DID YOU SEE?

In the July issue of "Playgirl" magazine they examine the problem of the lesbian mother. The article deals with the dif-

ficulty a million and a half lesbian mothers have legally, socially and personally. Several psychiatrists, including Dr. George Weinberg, author of "Society and the Healthy Homosexual," favorably comment on the offspring of gay mothers.

FOCUS ON :

PROJECT PLACE
32 Rutland Street
Hot Line - 267-9150
Business - 262-3740

Project Place, 24 hour telephone counselling for any and all problems, information & free legal assistance. Place goes beyond the usual description of a hot line by offering drop-in, face to face short term counseling, a 24 hour emergency van and occasional groups for consciousness raising.

Thursday night 5:00 PM to midnight the gay shift takes over. Gay people with problems or gay-related issues should call or drop in. But gays are encouraged to call or come by anytime about anything and everything -- counselors are trained to deal with all types of people problems -- 24 hours a day.

Place is always in need of volunteers, particularly gay people into helping people.

THE HOSSENPFEPER ~COLUMN~

by J. Ralf Green

In case you haven't heard, several weeks ago the Supreme Court decided that all regulation of "pornography" should be left to local authorities. In response to this, local theatres have reverted to showing softcore sex films rather than those with genuine action. An industry spokesman informed me that the companies which own the theatres are running scared, not from any direct threats of police action against gay films, but from the mere possibility of such action.

For those of us who enjoy seeing gay porn films this situation is virtually intolerable. The softcore films available are old, in bad condition, and of extremely low quality. They represent exploitation of the worst kind, and are no substitute for films such as BIJOU, L.A. PLAYS IT-SELF, or THE EXPERIMENT. If the theatre owners are afraid to run hardcore films, why can't they merely change to a non-sexually oriented mode of operation?

These theatres obviously want our business, or they wouldn't show gay films to begin with; if they want to keep our business, they'd better give us something other than garbage.

Now, if the stagehands will remove the soapbox, I'll move on to PINK FLAMINGOS (Fri. & Sat. Midnight at the Charles East).

Well, here we are at the Charles East, watching 97 minutes of camp, lewdness, and perversion. I first saw

PINK FLAMINGOS seven months ago in Washington, DC and literally could not believe some of the things going on that screen. There are sights here that defy description, sights that no rational mind could, or should, conceive. Writer-Producer-Director-Cameraman John Waters has succeeded in re-inventing the underground film and in making Warhol look like a Disney reject. Granted, the production values are not the greatest, a good deal of the acting really isn't, PINK FLAMINGOS is still a major work of art, or filth. The moral of the film? "Try to be too much of an asshole and chances are you'll get screwed."

MEDIA

BOB AND HARRY HERE!

Bob and Harry Freeman-Jones and William Alberts, the controversial minister who married the aforementioned couple, will be the guest speakers on a channel 5 TV program called "A New Heaven and a New Earth". This show will be aired on Sunday July 15 at 10 AM. Be sure to tune in and see how the church and gays interrelate.

HUB ON TUBE

July 18th at 9:00AM, Robert Dow, President of HUB, will be on the Paul Benzaquin Show on Channel 7 WNAC-TV. All members of the gay community are invited to watch this presentation if possible.

CALENDAR

NOTE: * INDICATES THAT MORE INFO. ON THIS EVENT IS IN THIS EDITION CSMH= CHARLES ST. MEETINGHOUSE

JULY 12-25

THU
8:00PM Fag Rag Meeting CSMH
9:00PM Gay Way Radio WBUR (90.9FM)
Nite Project Place Gay Crisis Line 267-9150
7:30P.M.* Effeminit Men's Rap at Place

12 **THU**
9:00PM Gay Way Radio, WBUR (90.9FM)
Nite Project Place Gay Crisis Line 267-9150
7:30 P.M.* Effeminit Men's Rap at Place

FRI
9:00PM GCC Gay Dance, Upstairs CSMH, \$1.50 don.

13 **THU**
9:00PM GCC Gay Dance, Upstairs CSMH, \$1.50 don.

SAT
All Day *Auction, CSMH
All Day *DOB Picnic, call 262-1592 for info.
All Day *MCC Picnic, Crane's Beach
8:00PM Good Gay Poets, John Williams, CSMH

14 **FRI**
8:00PM Good Gay Poets, Ron Schreiber, CSMH

SUN
1:00PM DOB Softball - Magazine Beach/Camb.
5:30PM Interfaith Mass - Beacon St. & Mass. Ave.
6:00PM MCC Meeting - Old West Church
7:00PM MCC Service - Old West Church
10:00AM *A New Heaven, A New Earth, Ch. 5

15 **MON**
1:00PM DOB Softball - Magazine Beach/Camb.
5:30PM Interfaith Mass - Beacon St. & Mass. Ave.
6:00PM MCC Meeting - Old West Church
7:00PM MCC Service - Old West Church
7:00PM Gay Media Watch, CSMH

TUE
7:30PM Gay Men's Rap, Upstairs CSMH

16 **TUE**
7:30PM Gay Men's Rap, Upstairs CSMH

WED
7:30PM DOB Open Rap & Meeting, 419 Boylston Rm.323
7:30PM *Hub Rap, 419 Boylston Rm. 509
8:00PM Gay Rollerskating, Ballarou, Medford

17 **WED**
7:30PM DOB Open Rap & Meeting, 419 Boylston Rm. 323
7:30PM Hub Rap, 419 Boylston, Rm. 509

THU
9:00AM *Robert Dow (HUB Pres.) on Channel 7
7:00PM GCN Staff Meeting CSMH

18 **THU**
7:00PM GCN Staff Meeting, CSMH

QUICK GAY GUIDE

American Civil Liberties Union 227-9469
Boston Gay Youth 536-6197
Charles Street Meetinghouse 742-0450
Daughters of Bilitis 262-1592
Dignity/Boston, c/o 1105 Boylston St., Boston, Ma. 02215
Fag Rag 536-9826
Gay Community Center 491-5669
or 288-8765
Gay Community News (c/o Charles St. Meetinghouse)
742-0450
Gay Media Watch 868-5729
Gay Speakers Bureau 547-1451



Gay Way Radio (WBUR-FM) 353-2790
(Contact Elaine Noble or John Lawrence)
Good Gay Poets 536-9826
Homophile Community Health Service 266-5477
Homophile Union of Boston 536-6197
Lavender Hour (WBCN-FM) 261-8526
(Contact Andy Kopkind or Littlejohn)
Lesbian Liberation 354-8807
(c/o the Women's Center)
Metropolitan Community Church 266-7491
Project Place 267-9150
Red River Dyke Collective
c/o 43 Willow St., Somerville, Ma. 02143
Fr. Paul Shanley 267-0764

